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2012 Reissuance of Municipal Stormwater Permits: Evaluation of Possible New Permittees and Expanded Coverage Areas

As part of Ecology's process to [reissue](#) the [Phase II Municipal Stormwater General Permits](#) in August 2012, Ecology evaluated possible new permittees for coverage.

The [federal rule](#) to implement the NPDES program requires that Ecology evaluate possible new permittees for coverage under the NPDES Phase II stormwater municipal permits.

Ecology's permits authorize stormwater discharges to surface water from municipal separate storm sewer systems that are:

- In a federally designated [Census Urban Area](#) and serve populations over 1,000; or
- Outside of federally designated Urban Areas and serve populations over 10,000.
- Urban Growth Areas of Phase II cities.
- Otherwise designated by Ecology as a potential significant contributor of pollutants to surface waters. Evaluations may be initiated by a petition for coverage submitted to Ecology.

Ecology began working in summer 2011 with the following cities that met these population thresholds in the 2010 U.S. Census:

- The cities of Moxee and Woodway are in Census Urban Areas and have grown since 2007 to have populations greater than 1,000.
- The cities of Lynden, Snoqualmie, Grandview, and Cheney now have populations greater than 10,000. Ecology used the "bubble cities" [evaluation criteria](#) developed in a public process for the 2007 permits.

Ecology's evaluation also included the unincorporated Urban Growth Areas (UGA's) around cities over 10,000 that became permittees in 2007. This is consistent with the UGA's of all the other Phase II cities, for which permit coverage began in 2007 using the criteria for [coverage through petition](#):

- Clallam County, for the Port Angeles UGA
- Island County, for the Oak Harbor UGA
- Skagit County, for the Anacortes UGA
- Lewis County, for the Centralia UGA
- Yakima County, for the Sunnyside UGA
- Kittitas County, for the Ellensburg UGA
- Grant County, for the Moses Lake UGA

During the 2011-2012 public comment period on the October 2011 draft permits, Ecology received a petition for coverage of the City of Blaine and the Whatcom County unincorporated UGAs of Birch Bay and Blaine. Ecology evaluated these areas for coverage using the petition criteria.

Evaluations Completed

Ecology determined that the following jurisdictions and areas **do meet the criteria for coverage** and included them as new permittees or areas of expanded coverage in the final permits to become effective on August 1, 2013 (WWA Phase II) and on August 1, 2014 (EWA Phase II) for a five-year permit term:

- City of Snoqualmie (WWA Phase II permit)
- City of Lynden (WWA Phase II permit)
- Whatcom County for the Birch Bay UGA (WWA Phase II permit)

- Yakima County for the City of Sunnyside UGA (EWA Phase II permit)

Ecology is working with these jurisdictions to help them prepare to meet the permit requirements as new permittees or expanded coverage areas.

Ecology completed the evaluations for the jurisdictions and areas below that were either listed as proposed permittees in the October 2011 draft permit or the subject of a petition. The evaluations determined that these areas **do not meet the criteria for coverage** at this time:

- City of Grandview
- Clallam County for the Port Angeles UGA
- Island County for the Oak Harbor UGA
- Lewis County for the Centralia UGA
- Kittitas County for the Ellensburg UGA
- Whatcom County for the Blaine UGA
- City of Blaine

Ecology completed its evaluation of the following jurisdictions in September 2011 and determined that they **did not meet the criteria** for permit coverage:

- City of Moxee
- City of Woodway
- City of Cheney
- Grant County for the Moses Lake UGA
- Skagit County for the Anacortes UGA

Helpful Links

- [EPA Fact Sheet: Who's Covered?](#)
- [2012 Permit Reissuance](#)
- [Municipal SW coverage area maps](#)
- [Municipal Stormwater Contacts](#)

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